

**Table 17. Number of occurrences, percent of all drug mentions, and percent distribution by ambulatory care setting of the 35 generic substances most frequently used at ambulatory care visits: United States, 1996**

Generic substance	Combined settings					
	Number of occurrences in thousands <sup>1</sup>	Percent of all drug mentions <sup>2</sup>	Total	Physician offices	Outpatient departments	Emergency departments
Percent distribution						
All occurrences . . . . .	1,471,276	...	100.0	80.7	7.9	11.4
Acetaminophen . . . . .	61,556	5.0	100.0	61.5	7.7	30.8
Amoxicillin . . . . .	40,838	3.3	100.0	82.3	6.1	11.6
Ibuprofen . . . . .	29,629	2.4	100.0	61.9	8.0	30.1
Albuterol . . . . .	21,779	1.8	100.0	73.1	7.6	19.3
Aspirin . . . . .	21,474	1.8	100.0	82.8	8.8	8.4
Hydrochlorothiazide . . . . .	19,232	1.6	100.0	89.1	8.5	2.4
Furosemide . . . . .	15,741	1.3	100.0	79.1	10.6	10.3
Estrogens . . . . .	15,558	1.3	100.0	88.3	7.6	4.1
Guaifenesin . . . . .	15,040	1.2	100.0	85.4	6.5	8.1
Hydrocodone . . . . .	14,895	1.2	100.0	67.4	3.2	29.4
Codeine . . . . .	14,002	1.1	100.0	71.3	7.2	21.5
Cephalexin . . . . .	13,428	1.1	100.0	76.4	5.3	18.3
Phenylephrine . . . . .	12,681	1.0	100.0	90.6	4.9	4.5
Erythromycin . . . . .	12,536	1.0	100.0	81.9	5.1	13.1
Trimethoprim . . . . .	12,141	1.0	100.0	74.9	8.2	16.9
Levothyroxine . . . . .	12,074	1.0	100.0	86.2	10.5	3.4
Insulin . . . . .	11,895	1.0	100.0	74.8	18.4	6.8
Digoxin . . . . .	11,787	1.0	100.0	86.0	6.9	7.1
Sulfamethoxazole . . . . .	11,396	0.9	100.0	73.8	8.6	17.6
Triamcinolone . . . . .	11,246	0.9	100.0	89.9	6.9	3.2
Prednisone . . . . .	10,939	0.9	100.0	77.8	10.3	11.9
Naproxen . . . . .	10,876	0.9	100.0	77.5	9.8	12.6
Pseudoephedrine . . . . .	10,734	0.9	100.0	88.2	5.2	6.6
Promethazine . . . . .	10,481	0.9	100.0	58.4	2.9	38.7
Nifedipine . . . . .	10,429	0.9	100.0	77.4	12.5	10.1
Potassium replacement solutions . . . . .	10,244	0.8	100.0	84.2	6.8	9.0
Vitamin A . . . . .	10,203	0.8	100.0	89.0	9.2	1.8
Estradiol . . . . .	9,906	0.8	100.0	91.9	6.7	1.4
Thiamine . . . . .	9,851	0.8	100.0	84.0	10.0	6.1
Pyridoxine . . . . .	9,842	0.8	100.0	87.4	10.2	2.5
Riboflavin . . . . .	9,604	0.8	100.0	87.6	10.0	2.4
Phenylpropanolamine . . . . .	9,454	0.8	100.0	89.2	4.9	5.9
Ergocalciferol . . . . .	9,213	0.8	100.0	88.5	9.4	2.0
Atenolol . . . . .	9,113	0.7	100.0	88.6	7.7	3.7
Diltiazem . . . . .	8,952	0.7	100.0	85.4	9.4	5.2

... Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Frequency of mention combines single-ingredient agents with mentions of the agent as an ingredient in a combination drug.<sup>2</sup>Based on an estimated 1,224,656,000 drug mentions at physician office visits, hospital outpatient departments, and hospital emergency department visits in 1996.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.